(e) whether the transparency will also include openness of Government towards all sensitive schemes and programmes;

(f) if not, the areas to be affected by scrapping of the Official Secrets Act?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (f) No, Sir.

However, the issue relating to amendments to the Official Secrets Act, 1923, is clubbed with the formulation of Freedom of Information Bill which is under examination of the Government.

**per inmate food authorisation in jails**

1914. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the per inmate food authorised in various jails in the country;

(b) whether the food available for the inmates in jails fulfil the required calories for subsistence level;

(c) if so, the item-wise food provided and the calories generated; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) 'Prisons' is a State subject as per Entry 4 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. It is essentially for the State Governments to prescribe such diet scales for prisoners as are necessary as per local requirements and food habits, etc., information about diet scales provided by different States is not maintained centrally.

**Presidential form of Government**

1915. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Commission to study the question of introducing Presidential form of Government in the country;

(b) whether all the formalities in this regard have been completed; and

(c) if so, what is the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Government has no such proposal. However, the Government does propose to review the Constitution of India in the light of the experience of the past fifty years and to make suitable recommendations, without altering the basic structure of the Constitution.

**कच्छ के लिए पृथक विकास बोर्ड**

1916. **श्री अन्नतराय देवशंकर दवे:**

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बतानें की कृपा करेंगें कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार को संविधान में संशोधन करके कच्छ क्षेत्र हेतु एक पृथक विकास बोर्ड गठित करने के लिये कोई अभ्यावेदन भेजा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि गुजरात विधान सभा ने इस संबंध में सर्वसम्मति से एक संकल्प पारित किया है ; और

(घ) क्या सरकार इस संबंध में मंजूरी देने का विचार रखती है ?

गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी): (क) से (घ) कच्छ के लिये एक विकास बोर्ड गठित करने संबंधी एक प्रस्ताव गुजरात सरकार से प्राप्त हुआ है और मामले पर सक्रिय रूप से विचार किया जा रहा है।

**Security and dignity of life to the mentally impaired**

1917. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has largely failed in its main objectives including securing security and dignity of life to the handicapped, especially the mentally handicapped or impaired;

(b) whether the five member NHRC had shrivelled from five member to a two member body in September, 1998, if so, what steps have since been taken to augment its strength; and

(c) the main recommendations for judicial reforms, including those regarding judicial custody, providing support to those mentally impaired who but for social support can stand on their feet and live a life with dignity and without or with little response from Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir. The National Human Rights Commission has been constituted with the objective of better protection of human rights. The functions to be performed by the Commission, interalia, include enquiry into complaints of violation of human rights, visit to jails or other institutions where persons are detained for treatment, reformation or protection; to review the safeguards provided by the Constitution or any law for the protection of human rights; review the factors that inhibit the enjoyment of human rights; spread human rights literacy among various sections of the society and to encourage the efforts of Non-Governmental Organisations and institutions working in the field of human rights. The Commission has always encouraged the NGOs' who work in the field of securing security and dignity of life to the handicapped, including the mentally handicapped or impaired, by supporting the activities of these NGOs and providing them with financial assistance.

(b) No, Sir. Two Members of the Commission resigned on 24th January, 1997 to join as Governors of the Stae of Kerala and Tamilnadu Thus, in September, 1998 the Commission had two Members other than the Chairperson. However, as on date, all the vacant posts of Members in the Commission have been filled.

(c) The recommendations of the NHRC are contained in its four Annual Reports for the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 which were laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha alongwith action taken report on 26.8.94, 26.8.95, 11.9.96 and 10.6.98 respectively.

**मंत्रियों और उनके निजी कर्मचारियों द्वारा यात्राओं पर खर्च राशि**

1918. श्री मुनव्वर हसन : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले छः महीनों के दौरान विभिन्न मंत्रियों तथा उनके निजी कर्मचारियों द्वारा यात्राओं पर कितनी-कितनी राशि खर्च की गई है ;

(ख) मंत्रियों द्वारा की गई यात्राओं में अधिकारिक और व्यक्तिगत यात्रायें कितनी-कितनी थी ;